

**A New Fire Station for Our Community**  
**Council President Scott Peters, First District**  
**For the Carmel Valley News, February 2008**

February marks a major milestone for the communities along the 56 corridor. The opening of Fire Station 47 will improve fire protection and reduce response times in the communities of Pacific Highlands Ranch, Carmel Valley and Torrey Highlands. I hope you will join me on February 6 for a celebration of this beautiful new facility and to welcome the Fire Station 47 crew to our community.

Located on what now is undeveloped land, Fire Station 47 is designed to grow with the community. This reflects a change in the way the City plans new communities. In the past, community services such as libraries and police and fire stations were developed after a community had been partially or completely built out, posing a number of challenges in finding, acquiring and developing available land. By building these facilities, along with adequate road and infrastructure systems, in the early years of a community, we can ensure reliable and sustained service in the years and decades to come.

The station's design reflects the Spanish and 18<sup>th</sup> century Mission influences of the surrounding community, and may be the most beautiful fire station in the city. The smooth finished walls and columns, arches, clay roof tiles and large wooden doors make the facility an architectural gem and a point of pride for local residents.

The 10,500 square foot facility features three equipment bays and 11 dormitories, which provides ample room to grow as the fire crew expands. Currently, the station hosts an 8-member crew staffing one engine and an aerial ladder truck, purchased by Pardee Homes.

At the entrance to the station, an original public artwork by Arizona artist Barbara Grygutis is a welcoming beacon for both residents and firefighters. Three stacked rings of translucent glass blocks encircle the station's flagpole. The blocks are infused with lively, colorful images inspired by the natural terrain found in Pacific Highlands Ranch, the American flag, and the firefighters themselves. At night, the glass ring is illuminated from within, creating a brilliant jewel-like effect. Grygutis, selected from a group of more than 50 artists, developed her concept for this artwork by visiting the site and gathering ideas and feedback from community members and Fire Department staff.

Pardee Homes deserves much credit for the design and construction of this vital facility. They paid the up-front costs to build the station now, and will be repaid later as community funds accrue. They also partnered with the City in hosting our community celebration on February 6. I hope you will join me in extending a big "thank you" to San Diego Division President Beth Fischer and her team.

Our community celebration kicks off at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 6 at Fire Station 47, located at 6041 Edgewood Bend Court. Tours of the station will be provided

to guests before and after the official program. Please RSVP to Melissa Sebastian at (858) 720-3233 or [info@FS47opening.com](mailto:info@FS47opening.com).